SI. No.	State	Achievement 1997-98	Achievement 1998-99	Achievement 1999-2000
17.	Nagaland	0.12	0.14	—
18.	Orissa	2.86	2.64	2.84
19.	Punjab	0.60	0.51	0.44
20.	Rajasthan	26.35	24.40	8.99
21.	Sikkim	0.06	0.06	—
22.	Tamil Nadu	2.44	4.17	3.72
23.	Tripura	0.05	0.04	—
24..	Uttar Pradesh	22.85	22.69	23.30
25.	West Bengal	1.52	1.26	2.51
26.	A & N Island	0.02	—	-
27.	Delhi	0.02	0.01	—
28.	Others	0.68	0.15	0.55
	TOTAL	129.79	148.09	130.65

Preserving Cattle Wealth

1277. SHRI LALITBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of AGRICUL-TURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that drought animals provide 30,000 Megawatt of power, plough 100 million hectares of land, save 6 billion tonnes of petroleum and carry more than five times freight and four times the passenger traffic as compared to Indian Railways in terms of originating traffic;

(b) whether drought animals contribute Rs. 90,000 crores worth of output by way of milk, work, dung, fibre, meat and skin; and

(c) what steps are taken to preserve our animal wealth and not allow them to go to slaughter houses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) Very little authentic data is available on utilization of animal energy. Several estimates put energy output of draught animals as equivalent of 30,000 megawatt and area cultivated by draught animals as a little less than 100 hectares. Some estimates put the savings in terms of diesel as 22.75 million tones per year through use of animal power. In terms of originating traffic, animals transport 1922.50 million tones of freight in the country while the railways carry 409.02 million tones. However, in terms of originating passenger traffic, railways carry 4152 million numbers as against 360 millions carried by animals.

(b) Draught animals generally produce milk in quantities sufficient only for their offspring. Output from draught animals in terms of milk, work, dung, fibre, meat, skin are not estimated separately.

(c) Some of the animal species are reared in the country exclusively for meat purposes. Preventing their slaughter is not contemplated at this stage. However, several State Government enacted legislation relating to prevention of slaughter of cow and its progeny. The States of Arunachal Pradesh, Kerala, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura as well as Union Territory of Lakshwadeep do not have any legislation in this regard. The Supreme Court has observed in various cases that (i) a total ban on slaughter of bulls and bullocks is ultra-virus the Constitution and (ii) an absolute ban on slaughter of bulls and bullocks is not necessary for complaying with Article 48 of the Constitution. Besides these legislative actions, a number of schemes are implemented by the Union Government as well as State Governments to preserve and develop indigenous animal genetic resources.

Refinance facilities to farmers in Maharashtra

1278. SHRI SURYABHAN PATIL VAHADANE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by Government to improve the refinance facility to poor farmers of Maharashtra State for their crop productions;

(b) whether Government are contemplating a new loaning policy for the Maharashtra State farmers;

(c) if so, by when it is likely to be extended; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) provides refinance facility to Commercial Banks, Cooperatives and Regional Rural Banks for providing timely and adequate credit to the farmers for their crop production. Under die existing Crop Loan System of lending to the fanners, loans.are provided on the basis of scale of finance for different crops which are fixed after taking into account all the requirements *i.e.* cost of cultivation, variations in climatic conditions etc. In order to provide adequate credit to the farmers, domestic scheduled commercial banks are required to lend 18% of net bank credit to agriculture sector.